

Overview of Local Art Service Organizations

1. Arts Etobicoke:

Established in 1973, the organization's current mission is to provide community leadership and spearhead partnerships for sustainable cultural growth and development for the diverse groups in West Toronto, including but not limited to groups from different racial, cultural, linguistic, age and socioeconomic backgrounds.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) "This is My Neighbourhood" – 19th year visual art in-school program offered to elementary schools in GTA.
- b) "Exploring Creativity in Depth" 13th year collaboration with the Milkweed Collective, TDSB and TDCSB to stimulate a child's creativity and imagination through visual arts in a gallery setting at Neilson Park Creative Centre.
- c) "smART stART" 16th year Student Art Show – free 8-day exhibition of drawings, mixed media, paintings, printmaking, sculpture and photography.
- d) "From 3 to 3" 7th year literacy program for children ages 3 to Grade 3 in collaboration with the University of Toronto Centre for Community Partnership and TDSB.
- e) "Business for the Arts" 3rd year partnership with Cultural Careers Ontario and Lakeshore Arts to explore mentoring as a way to enhance ongoing skill development for artists with the intention to become creative entrepreneurs.

New programs are:

- a) "amplify: 'Tuning in' to the Voices of Homeless Youth Through the Arts," a multi-media arts workshops to build capacity and employment skills in homeless youth ages 16-24 in music, sculpture, graphic zine making, dance and videography. In partnership with Youth Without Shelter.
- b) New art program in partnership with Catalyst-a GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) to work with LGBTQ teens and their allies to create collaborative artwork that expresses diversity and activating acceptance and alliances across gender and sexual orientation spectrum.
- c) "New Kidz on the Block Crew" – Arts Etobicoke is currently researching funding opportunities to hire and train ten local youth from the Jamestown/ Rexdale community to take over urbanNOISE, an anti-violence urban arts festival that has significant impact on the community. This festival has been implemented in the past 6 years with Trillium funding which ended in 2011.

2. Lakeshore Arts:

Established in 1993, its current mission is to improve the availability of arts, cultural and heritage activities within our neighbourhood. Lakeshore Arts encourages people of all

ages and backgrounds to participate in the arts - as a way of enriching their lives and strengthening their community.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) "Through the Eyes of An Artist" – 19th year annual juried art show featuring works in various media by established and emerging artists in partnership with the Assembly Hall.
- b) "The Façade Project" – 2nd year mural project funded by the Ministry of Culture in partnership with Lakeshore Collegiate, archiTEXT, Eventscape, and S.T.E.P.S. Consulting to install a sculpture outside the school, spring/summer 2012.
- c) *SHAZAAM!* - 7th year literacy, art and media, workshop for Grades 7 -11 at Second Street JMS in partnership with the Assembly Hall and Humber College Institute
- d) "Youth Arts Movement" (YAM) – 8th year program for youth aged 13-19 interested in developing and participating in community arts programming. YAM meets every second Tuesday at Lakeshore Arts to make art, share new ideas and organize art events in the community, including workshops on various artforms and exhibitions.
- e) "1000 Acts of Art" – 3 year project supported by an Ontario Trillium Foundation grant with the goal of tracking every act of art that transpires in the community, as a means to raise awareness in the community by profiling existing art groups, individuals and their programs. Using interactive web technology, individuals are encouraged to log on their achievements/activities: dance classes, art gallery visits, music lessons, book readings onto Lakeshore Arts' website.

New programs:

- a) "War of 1812 Theatre Project" in partnership with Sirius Theatrical Company to create and present an outdoor theatre performance based on the War of 1812.
- b) "60 Painters" – an ambitious overview of contemporary Canadian painting by emerging artists and very well established artists will be hosted at Humber College's Arts and Media Studios in 12,000 + square feet of theatre and studio space (converted Hockey Arena) from May 18th – June 19th, 2012. A public symposium is planned to discuss the work.

3. Scarborough Arts

Founded in 1978 and incorporated in 1979, Scarborough Arts' current mission is to develop, deliver and promote arts programming and cultural initiatives in collaboration and partnership with the community. Its motto "We bring artists to the community and the community to the arts."

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) Annual juried art show - 13th year all media art show to feature both emerging and established artists.
- b) "Kaleidoscope": Intercultural Arts Afterschool Program, 2nd year. Funded by Ontario Trillium Fund and in response to work conducted as part of Creative Mosaics Needs and Capacity-Building Assessment, this multi year program provides artist-mentored activities in five schools including digital storytelling, mural art, music, performing arts and creative movement/dance. Community members, particularly emerging artists and local seniors will be involved in community arts activities and gain artistic skills and experience.
- c) C.A.R.E.S". Artist Residency Digital Art Program, 6th year mobile after-school program for children aged 6-12; final phase of the Trillium Foundation grant. This program encourages the “middle years” to get hands on with technology, teaching them useful skills at St. Dunstan’s Catholic School, Cliffcrest Community Centre – HeartBeatz, Warden Hilltop Community. .
- d) "The Bridging Festival", 3rd year multidisciplinary, performing arts festival in theatre, dance and music. This is a collaborative community arts project presented in partnership with a number of community groups active in the Kingston-Galloway/Orton Park community. Drawing upon the expressed concerns of local residents, the purpose of all of the components of this project is to transform the bridge back into a connector that brings residents from diverse communities together.
- e) *IHad a Dream* 2nd year dance programme for youth. Initiated by the youth-led IHAD Collective, supported by SA and funded by the Laidlaw Foundation. Under the professional guidance of dance instructors/choreographers from the Larchaud Dance Project, this group implement 30 workshops, to teach the basics of three distinct genres of dance ranging from hip-hop to contemporary styles. Participants will have the opportunity to perform at the Bridging Festival.

New Programs:

- a) "Big Art Book," a digital anthology of work by local and emerging artists and writers of all ages, featuring associated workshops and activities.
- b) "Fusion Music Project" (final title TBD), multi-year project that will involve young urban music and spoken word artists and established Scarborough-based musicians in a unique fusion of musical styles. This new program is a spin-off from a previous impactful program free urban music program in partnership with Beatz to da Streetz for youth in under-served Scarborough communities.

4. UrbanArts Community Arts Council

Established in 1988, UrbanArts Community Arts Council mission is to enhance neighbourhoods by engaging youth in community development through the arts. Its mandate is to promote, engage and facilitate cultural and community development opportunities between artists, arts organizations and community members. Its

current strategic directions are on high density communities with a focus on youth and youth arts.

Some key ongoing programs include:

- a) After School Arts Program, 11th year program for youth 11-17 years old to learn from professional artists in various art streams: visual arts, dance, drama/theatre, literary and music. Youth will also learn arts management skills, such as setting up an organizational infrastructure: to develop its own annual dance showcase, perform choreography for younger dance crews and eventually operate its own studio under the tutelage of UrbanArts.
- b) "Summer Arts," 6th year multidisciplinary day camp program for children and youth ages 8 to 25 with an average daily attendance of 50 participants per day in the Weston-Mount Dennis area.
- c) "Beats.Mind.Movement," 6th year program summer intensive free 2-month program for youth aged 16-24. This program focuses on beat production, songwriting and recording, and the "Business of Music." The goal of each session is to complete an album or compile a CD and market it. This program is now packaged as a two 12-week session have been sold to the City of Mississauga and has become a revenue generation tool to the organization to sustain the program.
- d) "So You Think You Can Write," 2nd year workshop series designed to educate youth interested in making playwriting as a business. Working on a play, participants will learn about available funding, scholarships, both private and government funded programs, etc.
- e) "Young Boys' Mentorship Group," 2nd year program. Using creative drumming and hip hop young males, deemed hard to reach school staff, enhance their literacy and learn the skills of effective, positive communication through drumming and rap lyrics. Having participated in the program, some participants became leaders in training with organizations in areas where they live.

New program:

- a) "The heART smART Program" – in partnership with the Heart and Stroke Foundation, this is a leadership and advocacy program for youth from underserved communities and low income neighbourhoods to build capacity through dance, healthy living and positive self-esteem/body image.